

Hi all,

The reason why you are receiving this e-mail is to provide you with a bit of feedback (my observations) from the U13 tournament over the weekend 12-13 April. If you were not there, but are a part of the U13 squad, I believe it is still useful to learn some lessons from the others.

The view from the middle: Observations from the weekend's matches in Basel. These observations are mine about what the boys did collectively well, and could work on for future matches. We went to Basel with a squad of 9 players, which meant that one player needed to sit out each game. This is never an easy decision for the coach to make. The extra player was able to play a match for Wiesbaden (who were a player short). I thought the support the players gave their teammate who ended up missing out of a Gingins game was especially fantastic. The boys who played for Wiesbaden also really performed well for them, which is a great testament to the players themselves.

Please note:

1. This is being written without the aid of the scoresheets. Once we have these, the TeamSnap stats page will be updated.
2. This will not assess the performance of each player, nor cover each game specifically; it is an overview of the weekend.

The GCC squad comprised of:

- Luca Poynton (Captain)
- Dylan Cleaveley (wicket keeper)
- Aidan Anderson
- Alex Bucheli
- Leo Clairs
- Archer Martin
- Matthew Shaw
- Mattia Uras
- Kieren McConville - this was his first tournament for GCC, and he played really well.

Results: GCC played four matches over the weekend. In the pool stage, we won one and lost one. Unfortunately, 'extras' cost the boys in the semi-finals, and again in the 3rd - 4th play-off match; both of these matches came down to the final over and we just weren't able to get across the line.

Overall: Our players all moved into fielding/bowling positions quickly, and that kept the innings moving along at a nice pace. This is what we need to do in tournaments; there is a lot of pressure to keep to the time schedule – and I think Gingins did better than others in this respect. It is important for the captain and the bowlers to get the fielders ready and in position, and for each player to know his responsibility in the field.

Fielding: Overall I thought the fielding was very good; and it kept the pressure on the other batsmen. The fielders ran towards the ball to pick it up quickly, they cut off a number of runs and threw it in nicely. I recall a few run-outs, and specifically two taken by Matthew in the same match (might have even been in the same over). There were other chances, but this good fielding keeps the pressure on the batsmen. There was good backing up in the field, and I do not recall us giving away any overthrows, Kieren and Archer were on the receiving end of a few missed run-out attempts.

Catching, we held onto a few nice catches, Alex grabbed two in one match, Leo made a stunning catch in the first game and Mattia made up ground to make one too. We know there were a couple of opportunities that were dropped, and will not name names, as the boys know it already and the next time these will stick. The energy in the field was good; you just need to remember to keep encouraging one another, especially when the game seems to quieten down. Each of you are at the stage in cricket where you should want the ball to be hit in your direction, and are expecting it. You want the opportunity to get them out.

Thing to remember:

- 1) We will be moving outdoors, and the ball will not ricochet back to the field, and the distances to throw the ball will, therefore, be a bit further.
- 2) We will need to keep moving in the field and walking in with the bowler to ensure we are on our toes to react quickly when the ball is hit in our direction.
- 3) When fielding, focus on getting the ball back to the bowler. The umpires will collect the bails, if they fall off the stumps. Question: Do you know what to do to run out a batsman if the bails have already fallen off the stumps? (I would like to get answers by return e-mail)

Bowling: For the team as a whole, this area has been, to be honest, a bit disappointing. Often, we built up nice pressure on the opposition batsmen for a few balls and then let fly a few loose deliveries. As written above there were about 50 runs conceded in extras in each of the last two games. When you got the ball on line and in the right place, you got the rewards. I recall Luca, Aidan, Leo and Kieren (getting his maiden GCC wicket in the last match) all getting wickets from bowling the batsman or getting an LBW decision. Please remember the feeling of getting it right, and repeat it.

Things to work on and think about:

- 1) Relax and think about what you want to do with each delivery: where you want the ball to pitch (hit the matting in front of the batsman).
- 2) Are your fielders ready for you to deliver your next ball, where you want them to be? Do you have a plan for this delivery?
- 3) If you bowled a bad ball, put it behind you: there is nothing you can do about it and focus on getting the next ball where you want it. It is frustrating to bowl a bad ball, and more frustrating to bowl several.
- 4) As we move outdoors, there will be more gaps and ground for the fielders to cover. Therefore, we need to bowl with more discipline.

Batting: I thought that the batting, in general, after the first match went very well. The batsmen tended to hit more balls, rather than leaving or playing and missing. As the tournament progressed, I think the batting became more confident. We just might have left too much for ourselves to do with the bat, in order to get the results we wanted. I think each batsman can take a number of positives out of the tournament.

Things to work on:

- 1) Look for the easier runs and rotating the strike. It makes it more difficult on the bowler when he frequently has to adjust to a different batsman. Also you do not want to get bogged down at one end.

2) Talk to each other, and give one another support. You all know when the other batsman has made a rash stroke on the ball; help each other to play the correct shots. From the non-strikers end you have the best view of what is going on.

Calling and running between wickets: After the first match, the calling was reasonably loud and clear. The backing up by the non-striking batsman is also getting better, as it makes the journey to the other end a bit shorter.

One thing to remember:

- 1) If the fielder has to turn and run towards the ball, his back is generally to the wicket. It would require him time to set himself, get his balance, aim and make a good throw. He also needs to determine which end to throw the ball. It is in these situations, that one can look for runs, because the ball was hit through a gap in the field.

Dylan did very well behind the stumps, and claimed his first stumping as an U13. He also saved a number of byes and aided in run-outs.

You guys should be proud of the progress you made over the weekend. You may have been the only team in the tournament not to have played a match this year. We will need to improve on this and get you more opportunities to play matches.

Arnold Bucheli

Gingins, 16 April 2014